

Judgment of the employment by systematic data collection method

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Our research aims at examining the opinion of the Hungarian population about employment. We would like to define what factors are mainly associated with employment and what the exact meaning of these factors is. To carry out our research we have used the techniques of systematic data collection. This method, developed in the 1980s by anthropologist Susan C. Weller, and mathematician A. Kimball Romney in the United States, help researchers in the social sciences collect better interview or questionnaire data. This slowly spreading qualitative research method of systematic interviewing – where each informant is asked the same set of questions – diminished the sample size required in social science research in a revolutionary way.

In our paper we present a research overview about how to examine employment with the method of systematic data collection.

The first step in any study is to develop a clear understanding of and set limits to what is being studied. We are going to interview some informants during free listing. Then we can define the number of informants needed by using consensus theory. According to this, the number of informants needed depends on the average level of competence (that can be found out from the result of free listing), the confidence level and the minimum rate of questions we would like to classify correctly.

Methods of systematic data collection include a lot of techniques used to gather information about the informants. In our research, we are going to use the methods of balanced-incomplete block designs, rating scales and quick sort. Balanced-incomplete block (BIB) designs systematically compare subsets of items. The designs work by controlling the number of times that each pair is compared. By reducing the number of times each pair is compared to other items, the total number of subsets is reduced, while still maintaining comparisons among all items. Then, by summarizing the values belonging to the items in case of the informants, we got the total rank order of the items. We used rating scales to define the exact meaning of some items used in our research.

Keywords: systematic data collection, interview techniques, employment, sampling